

GRAPE VINE

Diversity workshop

Some 30 North Halton groups were represented at a unique anti-oppression workshop on Saturday, hosted by the North Halton Cultural Awareness Council.

Billed as a "Welcoming Diversity Workshop" the day-long seminar was an attempt at self-education by the Council, which aims to combat racism through education.

Council chair Elizabeth Carmichael said she hoped the seminar would help participants - including, among others, three police forces, several Town councillors, Scouts Canada and the Halton Board of Education - to enhance their skills and support efforts to make Halton Hills a safer community in which to live and work.

Call for 'Grandteachers'

Holy Cross School is looking "Grandteachers" - seniors who are willing to share their time and a lifetime of knowledge with the classroom.

Grandteachers are older people who work in the classrooms, sharing their special talents with students and acting, in some cases, as surrogate grandparents to students who don't have a senior figure in their lives.

Grandteachers create a rapport between the generations, show students how to celebrate life in all its phases and help eliminate stereotyping of all generations.

Grandteachers benefit from the program by getting the satisfaction of sharing their talents with receptive students, gain insight into what makes young people tick and a sense of respect from the students and teachers about the skills and resources the senior brings to the school.

For more information about the "Grandteacher" program call Holy Cross School at 877-4451.

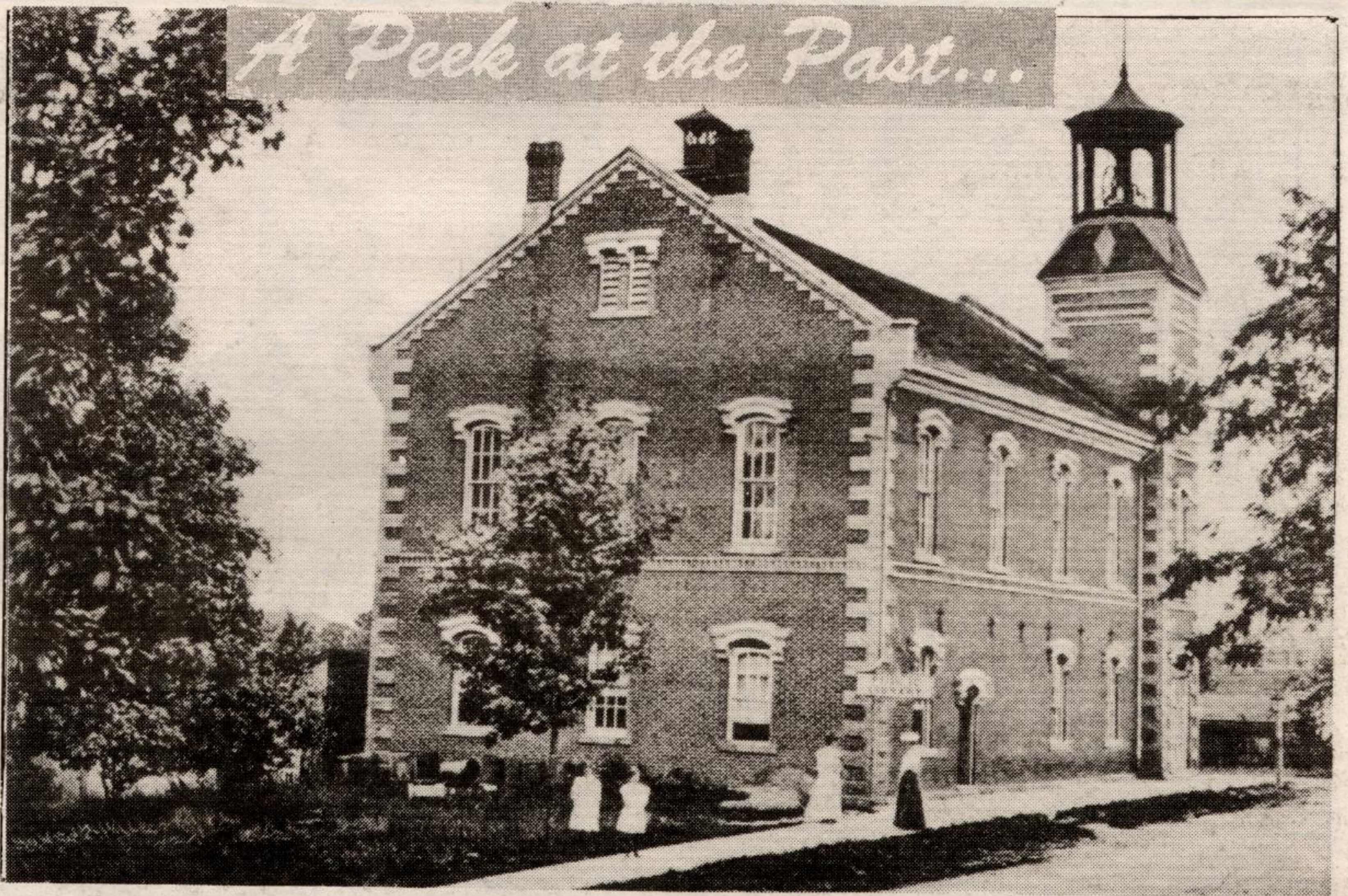
Rainy weekend plays havoc on events

The outer edges of Hurricane Fran left its mark in Georgetown, and the disappointment that went with it.

In addition to various events being canceled at the Fall Fair, a barbecue hosted by the North Halton Literacy Guild had to be postponed until Sept. 21, the Kinsmen Girls Select Softball championships were postponed until further notice and a charity softball game between the staffs of Canadian Tire and Zellers has to be scrubbed until a further date has been set.

Georgetown Fair tickets honoured in Acton

Because of the disappointing weather last weekend, the Acton Fall Fair (Sept. 20-22) will honour unused Georgetown tickets at the Acton Fall Fair. Simply turn them in at the fair gate and join us for a fun-filled day.



TOWN POLITICS: The old town hall and public library was the centre of much activity in old Georgetown. The mayors and councillors of the time dealt with the problem associated with a growing town. (photo courtesy of the ESQUESING HISTORICAL SOCIETY)

By way of introduction ... a few thoughts

It's been about a month since I came on board at *The Gemini*, and, I've gotta tell you, it has gone a long way toward restoring my faith in an industry I had come to despise.

Without getting into details, details I'd be quite happy to forget, this opportunity came along at just the right time for me. The opportunity to work in your home town, with people you've known for years, driving around streets without having to reach for a street atlas, all have some appeal. Hell, they've got a lot of appeal.

One of my great joys in this business was writing columns, something I haven't had an opportunity to do thus far at *The Gem*. Our usual columnist, *Mike O'Leary* wrote something this week that was fairly Acton specific (*The Gem* and *The Acton Tanner* share editorial copy when appropriate), so I seized the chance to get back to my first love.

So, without further delay, I thought I would be sanctimonious enough to share a few thoughts on *Life*, the *Universe* and *Everything* (with thanks to *Douglas Adams*) ...

A few years ago I decided to sign my organ donation card on the back of my driver's licence. Granted, it was, and still is, a personal choice, but recent events in the lives of a few family members convince me that my decision was right then, even more right now.

Two weeks ago, my cousin Brian, 34, got the call he'd been waiting almost four years for. He was to proceed immediately (do NOT pass go) to Toronto General Hospital. A new kidney would be waiting for him when he got there.

A victim of juvenile diabetes, Brian's health had taken a beating over the last few years. Tied to dialysis three times a week, totally blind and unable to work in his chosen vocation, Brian's new kidney will liberate him in more ways than he has known in the past half decade.

Because someone took the time

The Way I See It

With Jamie Harrison



and trouble to donate something they would no longer need, my cousin has a little more freedom. It's hard to argue the logic.

It's hard not to become complacent in the face of medical miracles. We hear of great new discoveries every day; something that brings the sick and the dying a little closer to a better quality of life.

Or, for that matter, just a couple of extra days of it. Even wracked with pain, knowing the end is near, most people will still fight to the end. I guess that's why euthanasia still doesn't sit well with a lot of folks.

The thought that I should be buried without my organs being harvested strikes me as wasteful. My feeling is this: If I'm dead, the chances of my needing to use, say, my eyes, is pretty slim.

Those who have been pronounced dead have a shocking ability to stay that way - dead.

Now, I'm willing to make allowances for those who have religious or otherwise ethical beliefs that would preclude them from donation.

Everybody has a set of beliefs, codified or otherwise. But, to be frank, I just can't wrap my mind around the concept that someone could wantonly throw away something that could mean a world of difference to someone else. Strikes me as throwing away a steak while someone starving looks on. If it sounds like desperation, it should. It is.

Ask anyone who has been told they are racing a clock.

It's that simple. You need a new heart before your old one gives out.

It's a hell of a waiting game and the players are in it until the bitter end.

Up until last weekend, I hadn't been to the Fall Fair in years. Now I think I spent more time there this past weekend than I have in all my years combined.

I wasn't going to go to the RCMP Musical Ride Friday, planning on attending Saturday instead. Sometimes sober second thoughts are the best ones. What a mess Saturday turned out to be. For a time I thought I saw someone building an arch over at Park School.

I suppose after eight consecutive weekends of zero precipitation, it eventually had to come, but the timing couldn't have been worse. There was certainly an air of disappointment given all that had been planned, but credit where credit is due, in most cases everyone soldiered on, making the best of a bad situation.

Hey, at least Sunday gave us a bit of a reprieve.

By the way, class move on behalf of the Acton Agricultural Society. They've offered to honour unused tickets from the Georgetown Fall Fair at the Acton Fall Fair, April 19-22. After almost 90 years the Georgetown and Acton have been reunified in a way.

Did you ever notice that *Andy Rooney*, he of *60 Minutes* fame, never actually says, "Did you ever notice ...?"

Sort of makes you wish he did, with that nasally voice of his.

Actually, I wish he did say it, at least once. That way my friend Jason would be somewhat vindicated with his *Andy Rooney* impression.

The voice is dead on, but he always starts with, "Did you ever notice ...?"

Next week *Mike O'Leary* returns to this spot, his mug appearing about five inches north of here.

HEY!

What was the best thing about the Georgetown Fall Fair?



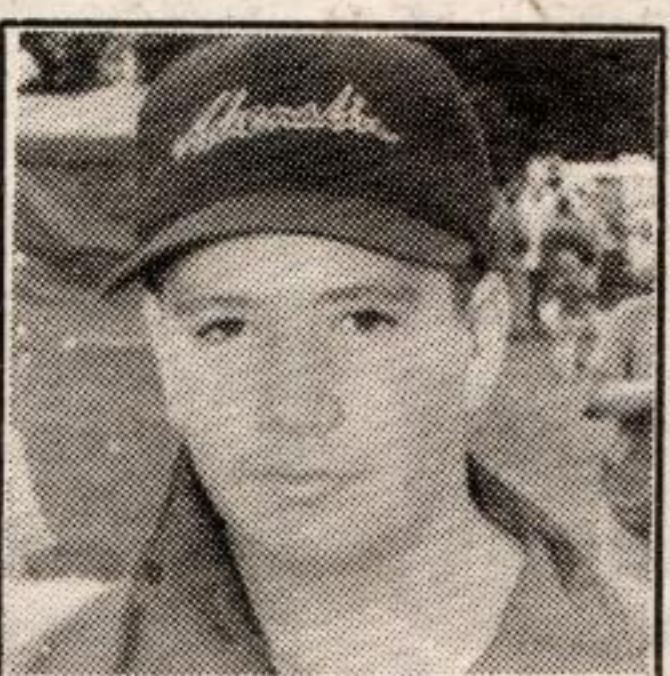
"(The RCMP Musical Ride), I would like to be a mounted police. I think it looked cool."
Leah Fendley, 8, Margaret Street



"Seeing all the animals and going on the rides. The pie at the St. Andrew's (Church) booth was good."
Lindsay Fendley, 12, Margaret Street



"Out of the animals, I liked the Mountie horses and I liked the rides a lot."
Laura Casey, 11, Wilson Court



"The best thing was the Gravitron (ride). There wasn't much to do this year. There was hardly anything."
James Boynton, 14, Cedarvale Court